

CONGRATULATING DAVID ROLF
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, David Rolf for his years of dedicated work as founding president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 775. After 15 years of impressive work, David is handing off the presidency of SEIU 775. In the years since David has led the union, he has been an indispensable force for labor issues in the State of Washington, and has been recognized nationally. I am certain he will continue to be in the years to come.

David started his union career as an SEIU organizer where he worked hard and, over the years, rose through the ranks to become the Vice-President of SEIU International. There are few in my community who don't admire the work he has done, and it is not hard to see why. David and SEIU 775 are a strong force motivated by the interests of the workers they represent.

Whether it be winning raises for the caregivers his union represents, expanding SEIU 775 to represent more workers, or leading the movement for a fifteen dollar living wage in the cities of SeaTac and Seattle—a movement that spread throughout the nation, David's passion for helping members of his community is astounding. His contribution to the fight for working people has changed the lives of so many, and earned the respect of many more.

David will still be active and remain president of Working WA and the Fair Work Center. I look forward to hearing about his upcoming achievements.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize David Rolf for his diligent work representing working Americans. I congratulate him on all of his success, and wish him all the luck in his future endeavors.

DR. THORNE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Oakleigh Thorne II's accomplishments over the past six decades are truly inspirational—exuding tremendous dedication towards making a difference to the wellness of our planet by educating children about the importance of environmental consciousness. In 1954, Thorne founded the Thorne's Nature Experience, which serves to environmentally educate adults and children about the importance of ecology, and its impacts on our economy, our social institutions and structures, and the planet. Additionally, Thorne helped found the Environmental Studies Department at Naropa University here in Boulder.

Thorne's passion for protecting the environment has driven him to defend and participate in over fifteen programs and boards that pre-

serve open space within Boulder, Aspen, Keystone, Denver, and even Wyoming. Thorne has also raised money for programs to prevent infrastructure from building on lands, and has even made personal investments in owning property to preserve the beauty of our natural landscapes. Today, Thorne works with two different programs at Yale University: the External Board of the Yale Institute for Biosphere Studies and the Leadership Council for the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Dr. Oakleigh Thorne's contributions to environmental protections and education are more than anyone would hope to accomplish in three lifetimes. We could not wish you a happy 90th birthday without acknowledging all you've done thus far. Thank you for all you've done for the City of Boulder, the state Colorado, and the world at large. Happy 90th Birthday.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF
BESSEMER, MICHIGAN, FOR RECEIVING
REDEVELOPMENT
READY COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION
FROM THE MICHIGAN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the city of Bessemer for receiving certification under the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program. Through more than 130 years of community investment and success, Bessemer has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula and the State of Michigan.

The Redevelopment Ready Communities program was first launched to assist Detroit suburbs in need of redevelopment by offering technical assistance, promoting best practices, and recognizing when improvements to local governance have been made. After seeing the success of the program, the initiative was expanded statewide by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). This certification is a formal recognition that the city of Bessemer has gone above and beyond what is required of them in order to improve its operations and be more competitive in today's economy.

Since its founding in 1887, Bessemer has played a vital role in forming the rich history of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. From its roots in the iron industry, the city has transformed into a strong community, a premier destination for lovers of the outdoors, and the home of one of the best Fourth of July celebrations in the state—an event that culminates in the famous "Thunder on the Mountain" fireworks show. Through the city government's capital improvement plan, zoning amendments, innovative marketing strategy, and emphasis on public participation, Bessemer has shown that it is dedicated to improving its community and promoting the livelihoods of its citizens and small businesses. By being certified as a Redevelopment Ready Community, the city of Bessemer has shown that it is pre-

pared to continue and expand upon this success. This accomplishment will be recognized by the MEDC on October 9 at Bessemer City Hall Auditorium.

Mr. Speaker, day after day, the city of Bessemer continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good. It's my honor to congratulate them for receiving RRC certification. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Bessemer all the best as it ventures into the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF OSWEGO ELKS LODGE
NO. 271

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Oswego Elks Lodge No. 271, an American fraternity that is commemorating its 125th anniversary in Central New York.

The Oswego Elks Lodge No. 271 was founded in 1893 with an inaugural initiation class of 30 members. The following year, the lodge received its official charter at the annual Grand Lodge Convention. When the lodge opened its new home in 1900, the group was the only civic or fraternal organization in Oswego that owned its meeting place. The Oswego Elks Lodge No. 271 would continue to convene at this building until the group purchased its current home in 1922, where they have held their meetings and events ever since.

Since its inception, the Oswego Elks Lodge has found itself at the center of the Elks organization in New York State. In 1932, member James H. Macklin was installed as State President at that year's state convention in Rochester. Member Daniel J. Capella would later be installed as State President in 1987. Still an active member in the Elk community today, Capella was named a member of the Government Relations Committee at the national convention in San Antonio, Texas earlier this year.

Throughout its 125 year history, the Lodge has provided a number of valuable services to the Oswego community. Each year, the fraternity hosts annual Soccer and Hoop Shoot contests for youth as well as a number of different dinners and dances. A participant in the Elks National Foundation Scholarships program, the Lodge has worked to give generous amounts of funding to deserving recipients each year. In addition, the group delivers supplies to the Syracuse VA Hospital, as well as the Oswego VA Clinic, and uses its Disabled American Veterans van to help transport veterans to and from appointments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating the Oswego Elks Lodge's 125 years of service to Oswego and the greater community of Central New York. As one of the region's leading civic and social fraternities, the Lodge deserves acknowledgement and praise for its countless years of charitable service.